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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANTHONY J. JENKINS ANNOUNCES
THE CONVICTION OF BULGARIAN NATIONAL
TODOR YORDANOV DRAGN, FOR POSSESSION ON THE HIGH SEAS
OF COCAINE WITH THE INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE**

Anthony J. Jenkins, U.S. Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands today announced that Todor Yordanov Dragn was convicted on August 26, 2005 of possession on the high seas of cocaine with the intent to distribute after a one-week trial in District Court in St. Croix.

Evidence introduced during the trial showed that approximately 90 miles north of Venezuela, Todor Yordanov Dragn, a Bulgarian national and 3 Bulgarian crew members were on board a Venezuelan sailing boat named the "Sunrise". A Dutch patrol vessel with a U.S. Coast Guard detachment observed objects being thrown overboard. The U.S. Coast Guard detachment made contact and boarded the Sunrise after receiving a statement of no objection from Venezuela. Todor Yordanov Dragn identified himself as the captain of the Sunrise. Once on board, the detachment team found over 200 kilograms of cocaine hidden within bags in compartments on board the vessel.

In 2004, an indictment was filed, charging Todor Yordanov Dragn and the three crew members with aiding and abetting each other in the possession on the high seas of cocaine with

intent to distribute. Today the jury found Todor Yordanov Dragn guilty of the offense and acquitted the three crew members.

The Sentencing Date has not yet been set by the Court. Todor Yordanov Dragn is facing a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment in addition to fines and forfeiture of his property as a result of the conviction.

The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise A. Hinds. U.S. Attorney Jenkins thanked Department of Homeland Security / U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) Acting Special Agent in Charge Lydia St. John-Mellado whose agency assisted in the prosecution of the case. U.S. Attorney Jenkins also thanked United States Coast Guard Admiral Brian Peterman, Commander of 7th Coast Guard District for the assistance given by the Coast Guard in the apprehension of Mr. Dragn and the prosecution of the case. U.S. Attorney Jenkins also gave individual recognition to the lead case agents, ICE Special Agents Eugene Thomas and Dennis Carter.